

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

In re Application of:	)	
Clifton Lind et al.	)	
	)	
Serial No.: 10/726,979	)	Group Art Unit: 3714
	)	
Filed: December 3, 2003	)	Examiner: Eric M. Thomas
	)	
FOR: METHOD, APPARATUS, AND	)	
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR	)	
CONDUCTING BINGO GAMES WITH	)	Confirmation No.: 5074
PRE-ASSIGNED BINGO CARDS AND	)	
<u>PRE-MATCHED BINGO CARD SETS</u>	)	

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Commissioner for Patents  
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**BRIEF OF APPELLANTS**

This is an appeal from the Final Office Action mailed April 16, 2007 (the "Final Office Action"), rejecting claims 1 through 20 in the above-identified application. Appellants submit this brief to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences ("Brief") within the second month following the two-month period following the Notice of Appeal filed August 31, 2007. A petition for a two-month extension of time is being submitted concurrently herewith. The fee of \$255.00 due under 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(2) is being submitted concurrently with this Brief together with the two-month extension fee.

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1                   **I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(i))**

2                   The above-described patent application is assigned to Multimedia Games, Inc., the real  
3 party in interest.

4  
5                   **II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(ii))**

6                   There is no related Appeal or Interference before the United States Patent and Trademark  
7 Office.

8  
9                   **III. STATUS OF CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(iii))**

10                  The status of the claims is as follows:

11                  Allowed Claims:	None
12                  Claims to which Objections apply:	None
13                  Claims withdrawn from consideration:	None
14                  Claims Canceled:	None
15                  Claims Rejected:	1 through 20
16                  Claims Appealed:	1 through 20

17  
18                  **IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(iv))**

19                  There have been no claim amendments filed subsequent to the Final Office Action mailed  
20 April 16, 2007.

1           **V. SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(v))**

2           The application includes three independent claims, claims 1, 8, and 14 each of which is  
3 summarized as follows. All page and line number references below are to the original  
4 application, and drawing references are to the original drawings all filed December 3, 2003.

5           Claim 1

6           Claim 1 is directed to a method which includes matching a first set of game designations  
7 with a set of bingo card representations to produce a matched card set. (p. 5, lines 6-7). The  
8 matched card set includes a number of game play records with each game play record  
9 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations. (p. 5, lines 9-10; p. 35, lines  
10 1-4; Fig. 10, ref. no. 102) Each game play record includes a result indicator indicating a result of  
11 the match between the first set of game designations and the respective bingo card representation.  
12 (p. 5, lines 10-13; p. 35, lines 6-12; Fig. 10 ref. no. 105). The method set out in claim 1 also  
13 includes receiving a number of game play requests. (p. 5, lines 16-17; p. 14, lines 1-2; p. 22,  
14 lines 13-19; Fig. 6, block 67). Each of the received game play requests is associated with a  
15 respective player and a respective bingo card representation from the set of bingo card  
16 representations. (p. 5, lines 15-19; p. 7, lines 10-15; p. 28, lines 3-11). For each received game  
17 play request, the method of claim 1 further includes assigning the respective player the game play  
18 record corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which the respective player  
19 is associated. (p. 6, lines 14-20; p. 22, lines 13-16; Fig. 6, block 67).

20           Claim 8

21           Claim 8 is directed to a program product stored on a computer readable medium. (p. 1,  
22 lines 16-17). The program product includes matching program code and game play assignment

1 program code. The matching program code is executable to match a first set of game  
2 designations with a set of bingo card representations to produce a matched card set. (p. 20, lines  
3 12-18; p. 35, line 19 - p. 36, line 2). This matched card set includes a number of game play  
4 records. (p. 5, lines 9-10). Each game play record corresponds to a different one of the bingo  
5 card representations and includes a result indicator indicating a result of the match between the  
6 first set of game designations and the respective bingo card representation. (p. 5, lines 10-13; p.  
7 35, lines 6-12; Fig. 10, ref. no. 105). The game play assignment program code is executable to  
8 assign game play records from the matched card set such that a respective game play record is  
9 assigned in response to each respective game play request. (p. 22, lines 13-18; Fig. 6, block 67).  
10 Each respective game play request is associated with a respective player and a respective bingo  
11 card representation in the matched card set. (p. 5, lines 15-19; p. 7, lines 10-15; p. 28, lines 3-  
12 11). Also, the respective game play record assigned for a respective game play request is  
13 assigned to the player associated with the bingo card representation with which the game play  
14 request is associated. (p. 6, lines 14-20; p. 22, lines 13-16).

#### 15 Claim 14

16 Claim 14 is directed to a gaming system comprising a number of player stations (40 in  
17 Fig. 3), a central processing system (34, 36 in Fig. 3), and a communications system (20, 17, 18a,  
18 18b, 42 in Fig. 3). (p. 11, line 19 - p. 12, line 11; p. 16, line 14 - p. 17, line 4; Fig. 3). Each of  
19 these elements is defined in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph six. Each player station  
20 functions to enable a player to initiate a game play request and to display results of a game play  
21 upon receipt of a game play record. (p. 16, line 14 - p. 17, line 4; and Figs. 3-4). Each game play  
22 request initiated by a player station is associated with the initiating player and with a respective

1     respective bingo card representation in a set of bingo card representations. (p. 28, lines 3-11).

2     The central processing system functions to store a set of game play records, each game play  
3     record corresponding to a respective bingo card representation which has been matched to a first  
4     set of game designations. (p. 22, lines 9-11; Fig. 6, block 66). The central processing system  
5     also functions to assign a respective game play record from the set of game play records to a  
6     player in response to a game play request initiated by the respective player at one of the player  
7     stations. (p. 22, 13-18; Fig. 6, block 67). The respective game play record that is assigned to a  
8     respective player is the game play record corresponding to the bingo card representation that is  
9     associated with that particular player. (p. 6, lines 14-20; p. 22, lines 13-16). The  
10    communications system is operatively connected to the central processing system and to each of  
11    the player stations and functions to facilitate communications between the central processing  
12    system and each player station. (p. 11, line 19 - p. 12, line 2; p. 15, line 18 - p. 16, line 3; Figs. 3-  
13    4, ref. nos. 17, 18a, 18b, 20, 42).

1                   **VI. GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL**  
2                                   **(37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vi))**  
3

4                   Claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-16 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type  
5 double “patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 7-10, 12, 16-18, 21-22, 28 and 34-36 of  
6 U.S. Patent No. 6,802,776 to Lind et al. (the “776 patent”).

7                   Claims 1 through 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S.  
8 Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0111207 to Lind et al. (the “207 publication”).

9                   Claims 1 through 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by the  
10 776 patent.  
11

12                                   **VII. ARGUMENT (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(vii))**

13           A.     CLAIMS 1-4, 7-11, and 14-16 ARE NOT OBJECTIONABLE FOR NONSTATUTORY  
14                   OBVIOUSNESS-TYPE DOUBLE PATENTING OVER CLAIMS FROM THE 776  
15                   PATENT

16                   A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate for a given  
17 claim where the given claim is not patentably distinct from a reference claim because the given  
18 claim is merely an obvious variation of the reference claim. *See In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046,  
19 29 U.S. P.Q. 2d 1226, 2015-16 (Fed. Cir. 1993). In the present case, the rejected claims clearly  
20 include limitations not taught or suggested by the reference claims. Thus the present claims are  
21 not merely obvious variations on the subject matter claimed in the 776 patent. The nonstatutory  
22 obviousness-type double patenting rejections are therefore in error and should be reversed.

1 Independent claim 1 is directed to a method that requires the following limitations:

- 2 (a) matching a first set of game designations with a set of bingo card representations  
3 to produce a matched card set, the matched card set including a number of game  
4 play records with each game play record corresponding to a different one of the  
5 bingo card representations and including a result indicator indicating a result of  
6 the match between the first set of game designations and the respective bingo card  
7 representation;  
8 (b) receiving a number of game play requests, **each respective game play request**  
9 **being associated with a respective player and a respective bingo card**  
10 **representation from the set of bingo card representations; and**  
11 (c) **for each game play request, assigning the respective player the game play**  
12 **record corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which**  
13 **the respective player is associated** (Emphasis added).

14 Claim 1 of the 776 patent is directed to a method of producing and utilizing a set of game play  
15 records for a bingo-type game which employs a first set of game designations selected from a  
16 pool of available game designations and further employs a set of bingo card representations,  
17 where each bingo card representation in the set of bingo card representations includes a number  
18 of card designations which are selected from the pool of available game designations. Claim 1 of  
19 the 776 patent requires the following steps:

- 20 (a) matching the first set of game designations with card designations of the  
21 respective bingo card representations to produce a matched card set, the matched  
22 card set including a number of game play records with each game play record  
23 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a  
24 result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of game  
25 designations and the card designations for the respective bingo card representation  
26 to which the respective game play record corresponds;  
27 (b) storing data representing the matched card set in a data storage device; and  
28 (c) **assigning game play records from the matched card set in a random order,**  
29 **each game play record assigned to a respective player among a number of**  
30 **players participating in the bingo-type game in response to a game play**  
31 **request initiated by the respective player** (Emphasis Added).

32 The fundamental difference between the subject matter of the present claims and the  
33 claims of the 776 patent is immediately apparent upon comparing the bolded portions of the



1 claims set out above. Specifically, claim 1 of the 776 patent requires that the game play records  
2 be assigned in a random order and that each game play record is assigned to a respective player  
3 among a number of players participating in the bingo-type game in response to a game play  
4 request initiated by the respective player. In contrast, element (b) of claim 1 of the present  
5 application requires that each respective game play request that is received, that is, each  
6 incoming game play request, is associated with both a respective player and with a respective  
7 bingo card representation from the set of bingo card representations. Element (c) of claim 1 of  
8 the present case then requires that for each received game play request the respective player is  
9 assigned the game play record corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with  
10 which the respective player is associated. Thus the present claims do not merely require that the  
11 game play records are assigned to incoming game play requests as in the claims of the 776 patent.  
12 Rather, the incoming game play requests in the presently claimed gaming system each specify a  
13 respective bingo card representation, and the game play record for that particular bingo card  
14 representation is assigned to the player in response to the game play request.

15 The Final Office Action mailed April 16, 2007 (the "Final Office Action"), provides the  
16 following rationale for the obviousness-type double patenting rejections.

17 The claims are not patentability [sic] distinct from one another because it would  
18 have been obvious at the time of the invention to implement a similar bingo game  
19 with a plurality of game play requests associated with respective players and  
20 request multiple bingo cards in order to provide [sic] multiplayer bingo system  
21 with multiple ways to win. One would be motivated because a multiplayer bingo  
22 system allows for players to enjoy a bingo game in a traditional setting. Final  
23 Office Action at p. 3, lines 6-12.

24 The emphasis on multiplayer bingo in this rationale indicates that the Final Office Action has  
25 misconstrued the differences between the presently claimed subject matter and the subject matter

1 claimed in the 776 patent. Both the claims in the 776 patent and the present claims are directed  
2 to multiplayer bingo systems. However, the present claims require that each incoming game play  
3 request is associated with a respective bingo card representation and the game play records are  
4 assigned on that basis rather than on a random basis as in the system described in the 776 patent.  
5 The Final Office Action appears to entirely miss this distinction between the present claims and  
6 the subject matter claimed in the 776 patent. The Final Office Action certainly does not provide  
7 any reason as to why it would have been obvious to modify the subject matter claimed in the 776  
8 patent so that each incoming game play request was associated with a particular bingo card  
9 representation.

10 The Advisory Action (the "Advisory Action") mailed August 13, 2007, in the present  
11 application offers the following rationale for maintaining the obviousness-type double patenting  
12 rejections.

13 However, as discussed in the previous office action, although the conflicting  
14 claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because  
15 the subject matter of the conflicting claims are [sic] similar and, at times, almost  
16 identical in phrasing and terminology. Therefore, the nonstatutory obviousness-  
17 type double patenting rejection will not be withdrawn. Advisory Action,  
18 continuation page at lines 4-7.

19 The Appellants respectfully submit that this statement from the Advisory Action does not  
20 represent a proper rationale for making an obviousness-type double patenting rejection. It  
21 appears that the rejections are based only on the similarities in the claimed subject matter. The  
22 Advisory Action and Final Office Action both entirely fail to recognize the differences between  
23 the present claims and the claims of the 776 patent and also fail to provide any reason as to why

1 it would have been obvious to modify the system claimed in the 776 patent so that each incoming  
2 game play request was associated with a particular bingo card representation.

3 Although the above discussion is based on a comparison of claim 1 from the present  
4 application to claim 1 of the 776 patent, with one exception, the above arguments apply similarly  
5 to the other claims of the present case and the remaining claims of the 776 patent. That  
6 exception is that some of the claims of the 776 patent do not specifically require that the game  
7 play records are assigned “in a random order” in response to incoming game play requests. For  
8 example, claim 19 of the 776 patent requires at element (b) “assigning a number of the matched  
9 bingo card representations from the matched card set, each matched bingo card representation  
10 being assigned to a respective player in response to a game play request of the respective player.”  
11 However, all of the claims of the present application require that each received game play request  
12 is associated with a respective bingo card representation (element (b) of claim 1, element (b) of  
13 claim 8, and element (a) of claim 14). This arrangement in which the incoming game play  
14 requests are each associated with a respective bingo card representation is neither claimed nor  
15 disclosed in the 776 patent.

16 For all of these reasons the Appellants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7-11, and 14-  
17 16 are not objectionable on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over  
18 the claims of the 776 patent, and believe that the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting  
19 rejections stated in the Final Office Action should be reversed.

1 B. CLAIMS 1 THROUGH 20 ARE NOT ANTICIPATED BY THE CITED ART

2 It is noted that the 207 publication is the published version of the application which  
3 matured into the 776 patent. Thus the 776 patent represents essentially the same prior art as the  
4 207 publication. The arguments presented below will refer primarily to the 776 patent, however,  
5 these arguments apply with equal force to the 207 publication.

6 Claim 1

7 As discussed above in connection with the double-patenting rejections, element (b) of  
8 claim 1 of the present application requires that each game play request, that is, each incoming  
9 request for a play in the game, is associated with a particular player and with a respective bingo  
10 card representation from the set of bingo card representations. Element (c) of the Appellants'  
11 claim 1 requires assigning to a particular player the game play record corresponding to the  
12 respective bingo card representation that is associated with the particular player. The 776 patent  
13 fails to disclose either of these limitations. In contrast to the method set out in Appellants' claim  
14 1, the 776 patent discloses that the game play requests need only include sufficient information to  
15 identify the matched card set from which a game play record is to be assigned (776 patent at col.  
16 13, lines 49-58; 207 publication at ¶0063) and that the game play records are randomly assigned  
17 to players (776 patent at col. 16, line 64 to col. 17, line 4; 207 publication at ¶73).

18 The Final Office Action and the Advisory Action fail to address the differences between  
19 the subject matter required in claim 1 and the system disclosed in the 776 patent (and 207  
20 publication). In addressing the Appellants' arguments regarding the differences between claim 1  
21 and the subject matter disclosed in the 776 patent, the Final Office Action makes the following  
22 comment.

1        However, the “776” patent states that the central computer receives information  
2        from various gaming floor devices in a respective group, which leads to the  
3        central computer receiving game play requests from the devices in the group and  
4        sends record information to the respective device (col. 6, lines 52-64). The “776”  
5        patents [sic] also teaches that the central computer allows players to participate in  
6        the games available by purchasing bingo card representations through his or her  
7        corresponding game play records (col. 8, lines 1-11). Therefore, the game system  
8        taught by the “776” patent provides the limitations of the claimed invention. Thus,  
9        the examiner maintains the “776” [sic] renders the claimed invention anticipated.  
10       Final Office Action at p. 19, lines 4-12.

11       The Appellants agree that the system disclosed in the 776 patent uses game play requests  
12       initiated by players, and further agree that when a player is assigned a game play record they are  
13       essentially purchasing a pre-matched bingo card representation. However, the facts that the 776  
14       patent discloses player initiated game play requests and also discloses that players purchase pre-  
15       matched bingo card representations simply does not amount to a disclosure that the game play  
16       requests are each associated with a respective bingo card representation. There is nothing in the  
17       776 patent (and the 207 publication) to suggest that the game play requests in that system are  
18       associated with any particular bingo card representation. In fact, the 776 patent and 207  
19       publication each specifically disclose that the game play records (and thus pre-matched bingo  
20       card representations) are assigned randomly in response to incoming game play requests (776  
21       patent at col. 16, line 64 to col. 17, line 4; 207 publication at ¶73).

22       For these reasons, the Appellants respectfully submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by the  
23       776 patent and is also not anticipated by the 207 publication, and that claim 1 is entitled to  
24       allowance along with its respective dependent claims, claims 2 through 7. The Appellants  
25       therefore respectfully submit that the anticipation rejections of claims 1 through 7 are in error and  
26       should be reversed.

1     Independent Claims 8 and 14

2             Independent claims 8 and 14 are directed to a program product and apparatus,  
3     respectively, that require limitations similar to those of claim 1. In particular, claims 8 and 14  
4     require that each game play request is associated with a particular bingo card representation from  
5     the set of bingo card representations as required by claim 1. Claims 8 and 14 additionally require  
6     that the game play record assigned to a respective player in response to a game play request  
7     corresponds to the bingo card representation associated with the respective player, also as  
8     required by claim 1. As discussed above, the 776 patent and 207 publication do not disclose  
9     these limitations. Thus, the arguments presented above with respect to claim 1 apply with equal  
10    force to claims 8 and 14.

11            For these reasons, the Appellants respectfully submit that independent claims 8 and 14  
12    are not anticipated by either the 776 patent or the 207 publication, and that claims 8 and 14 are  
13    entitled to allowance along with their respective dependent claims, claims 9 through 13 and  
14    claims 15 through 20. The Appellants therefore respectfully submit that the anticipation  
15    rejections of claims 8 through 13 and claims 14 through 20 are in error and should be reversed.

1 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

2 For all of these reasons the Appellants submit that claims 1 through 20 are entitled to  
3 allowance and respectfully request that the Board reverse the decision of the Examiner rejecting  
4 these claims.  
5

6 Respectfully submitted,

7 The Culbertson Group, P.C.

8  
9 Date: 31 Dec 2007

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1                                    **IX. CLAIMS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(viii))**

2

3        1.        A method including the steps of:

- 4                    (a)        matching a first set of game designations with a set of bingo card representations
- 5                                    to produce a matched card set, the matched card set including a number of game
- 6                                    play records with each game play record corresponding to a different one of the
- 7                                    bingo card representations and including a result indicator indicating a result of
- 8                                    the match between the first set of game designations and the respective bingo card
- 9                                    representation;
- 10                  (b)        receiving a number of game play requests, each respective game play request
- 11                                    being associated with a respective player and a respective bingo card
- 12                                    representation from the set of bingo card representations; and
- 13                  (c)        for each game play request, assigning the respective player the game play record
- 14                                    corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which the
- 15                                    respective player is associated.
- 16

17        2.        The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

- 18                  (a)        assigning game play records from the matched card set until a game winning
- 19                                    player holds a game play record corresponding to a matched bingo card
- 20                                    representation having a game ending pattern; and



1 (b) withdrawing the matched card set from play in response to the assignment of the  
2 game play record corresponding to the matched bingo card representation having  
3 the game ending pattern.  
4

5 3. The method of claim 1 further including the step of matching an additional game  
6 designation set with the set of bingo card representations to produce an additional  
7 matched card set, the additional matched card set including a number of respective  
8 additional game play records with each additional game play record corresponding to a  
9 different one of the bingo card representations and including a result indicator indicating  
10 a result of the match between the additional game designation set and the respective  
11 bingo card representation.  
12

13 4. The method of claim 3 further including the steps of:

- 14 (a) receiving an additional game play request associated with a given player who has  
15 already been assigned a respective game play record from the matched card set,  
16 the additional game play request also being associated with a respective bingo  
17 card representation from the set of bingo card representations; and  
18 (b) assigning the given player the additional game play record corresponding to the  
19 respective bingo card representation with which the given player is associated.  
20

1        5.        The method of claim 3 further including the step of assigning additional game play  
2                records from the additional matched card set in response to a game play request which  
3                next follows a game play request for which is assigned a game ending game play record.

4  
5        6.        The method of claim 3 further including the step of assigning game play records from the  
6                matched card set for a set period of time and then assigning additional game play records  
7                from the additional matched card set after that set period of time.

8  
9        7.        The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:

10           (a)        matching a number of additional game designation sets with the set of bingo card  
11                representations to produce a number of additional matched card sets, each  
12                additional matched card set including a number of respective additional game play  
13                records with each additional game play record in a given one of the additional  
14                matched cards sets corresponding to a different one of the bingo card  
15                representations and including a result indicator indicating a result of the match  
16                between the respective additional game designation set and the respective bingo  
17                card representation; and

18           (b)        storing each additional matched card set so that respective additional game  
19                records are available for assignment in response to a respective game play request.

20  
21        8.        A program product stored on a computer readable medium, the program product  
22                including:

- 1 (a) matching program code for matching a first set of game designations with a set of  
2 bingo card representations to produce a matched card set, the matched card set  
3 including a number of game play records with each game play record  
4 corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a  
5 result indicator indicating a result of the match between the first set of game  
6 designations and the respective bingo card representation; and  
7 (b) game play assignment program code for assigning game play records from the  
8 matched card set, a respective game play record being assigned in response to a  
9 respective game play request, each respective game play request being associated  
10 with a respective player and a respective bingo card representation in the matched  
11 card set, and the respective game play record assigned for a respective game play  
12 request being assigned to the player associated with the bingo card representation  
13 with which the game play request is associated.

14  
15 9. The program product of claim 8 further including:

- 16 (a) game ending play monitoring program code for detecting when a player has been  
17 assigned a game play record corresponding to a matched bingo card representation  
18 having a game ending pattern; and  
19 (b) matched card set switching program code for switching to a different matched  
20 card set when the winning play monitoring program code detects that a player has  
21 been assigned the game play record corresponding to the matched bingo card  
22 representation having the game ending pattern.

1      10.    The program product of Claim 8 wherein the matching program code matches an  
2           additional game designation set with the set of bingo card representations to produce an  
3           additional matched card set, the additional matched card set including a number of  
4           respective additional game play records with each additional game play record  
5           corresponding to a different one of the bingo card representations and including a result  
6           indicator indicating a result of the match between the additional game designation set and  
7           the respective bingo card representation.

8  
9      11.    The program product of Claim 10 wherein the game play assignment program code  
10          responds to a game play request from a given player who has been assigned a game play  
11          record from the matched card set by assigning the given player an additional game play  
12          record from the additional matched card set, the assigned additional game play record  
13          corresponding to the respective bingo card representation with which the given player is  
14          associated.

15  
16      12.    The program product of claim 11 wherein the game play assignment program code  
17          assigns a respective additional game play record from the additional matched card set in  
18          response to a game play request which next follows a game play request for which is  
19          assigned a game ending game play record from the matched card set.

20  
21      13.    The program product of claim 10 wherein the game play assignment program code  
22          assigns game play records from the matched card set for a set period of time and then

1 assigns additional game play records from the additional matched card set after that set  
2 period of time.  
3

4 14. A gaming system comprising:

- 5 (a) a number of player stations, each player station for enabling a player to initiate a  
6 game play request and for displaying results of a game play upon receipt of a  
7 game play record, each game play request initiated by a player station being  
8 associated with the initiating player and with a respective bingo card  
9 representation in a set of bingo card representations;
- 10 (b) a central processing system for storing a set of game play records, each game play  
11 record corresponding to a respective bingo card representation which has been  
12 matched to a first set of game designations, the central processing system also for  
13 assigning a respective game play record from the set of game play records to a  
14 player in response to a game play request initiated by the respective player at one  
15 of the player stations, the respective game play record assigned to the player being  
16 the game play record corresponding to the bingo card representation that is  
17 associated with that player; and
- 18 (c) a communications system operatively connected to the central processing system  
19 and to each of the player stations for facilitating communications between the  
20 central processing system and each player station.

1      15.    The gaming system of claim 14 wherein:

- 2            (a)      the central processing system stores a number of additional sets of game play  
3                    records, each game play record in a respective additional set of game play records  
4                    corresponding to a respective one of the bingo card representations which has  
5                    been matched to an additional set of game designations; and  
6            (b)      the central processing system also assigns a respective game play record from one  
7                    of the additional sets of game play records to a player in response to a game play  
8                    request initiated by the respective player at a respective one of the player stations,  
9                    the respective game play record assigned to the player from the additional set of  
10                   game play records being the game play record in that additional set corresponding  
11                   to the bingo card representation that is associated with that player.

12  
13      16.    The gaming system of claim 14 wherein the matched card set includes a game ending  
14            game play record corresponding to a bingo card representation from the set of bingo card  
15            representations and wherein the central processing system withdraws the matched card set  
16            from play in response to the assignment of the game ending game play record.

17  
18      17.    The gaming system of claim 14 further including a gaming floor component for directing  
19            a bingo card request to the central processing system in response to a bingo card request  
20            input entered for a respective player, and wherein the central processing system responds  
21            to the bingo card request by associating a respective bingo card representation from the

1 bingo card representation set with the respective player for whom the bingo card request  
2 input was entered.

3  
4 18. The gaming system of claim 17 wherein the gaming floor component comprises one of  
5 the player stations.

6  
7 19. The gaming system of claim 17 further including a point of sale terminal distinct from the  
8 player stations and wherein the gaming floor component comprises the point of sale  
9 terminal.

10  
11 20. The gaming system of claim 14 wherein the central processing system is also for  
12 maintaining a database correlating each of a number of respective players to one or more  
13 bingo card representations with which the respective player is associated.

**X. EVIDENCE APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(ix))**

The Appellants have not relied upon any evidence in this appeal according to 37 C.F.R.

§41.37(c)(1)(ix).



**XI. RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX (37 C.F.R. §41.37(c)(1)(x))**

There is no related Appeal or Interference before the United States Patent and Trademark

Office.